DHS-7 Adult and Maternal Mortality Module
Instructions for Interviewer's Manual

Section MM: Adult and Maternal Mortality

Q. MM01: INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

Begin the section by informing the respondent that we would like to record the names of all of her brothers and sisters. Read the question slowly so the respondent will understand that you are asking her to list **ALL** children born to her natural mother. This includes brothers and sisters of the respondent who may live elsewhere and those who have died. Also included are brothers and sisters who were born to her mother, but are not the natural children of her father (they have same mother, different father).

As your respondent lists the names, write them down as reported by her. She can give the names in any order. Do not include the respondent in the list.

Do not fill in the order number yet, more detailed instructions on how to complete the order number are provided in Q. MM10.

Q. MM02: FILTER FOR NO BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Check the answers in Q. MM01. If the respondent had one or more brothers or sisters listed, continue with Q. MM03. If the respondent had no brothers or sisters listed, go to Q. MM04.

Q. MM03: CHECKING NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS

When you have listed all the names, you want to be certain you have included all the brothers and sisters of the respondent who were also born to her natural mother before continuing with the rest of the module. **To do this, read the names of all the brothers and sisters aloud and after the last one ask question Q. MM03.**

If the answer is YES, go back to Q. MM01 and add names to the list before continuing to Q. MM04. If the answer is NO, go to Q. MM04.

Q. MM04: ANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVING ELSEWHERE

This question refers to the respondent's brothers and sisters who are alive but do not live with her or she does not see very often. For example, the brothers or sisters may have been raised separately, or are living in another town or country.

If the answer is YES, go back to Q. MM01 and add names to the list before continuing to Q. MM05. If the answer is NO, go to Q. MM05.

Q. MM05: ANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO DIED

This question refers to the respondent's brothers and sisters who have died. Some respondents may fail to mention a brother or sister who died at a very

young age, so if a respondent answers NO, it is important to probe by asking, “Any brother or sister who died at a very young age?”

If the answer is YES, go back to Q. MM01 and add names to the list before continuing to Q. MM06. If the answer is NO, go to Q. MM06.

Q. MM06: ANY HALF BROTHERS AND SISTERS

This question refers to the respondent’s half-brothers/sisters who have the same mother as the respondent, but a different father.

If the answer is YES, go back to Q. MM01 and add names to the list before continuing to Q. MM07. If the answer is NO, go to Q. MM07.

Q. MM07: TOTAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Add up the number of brothers and sisters in Q. MM01 and enter the total in Q. MM07.

Q. MM08: CHECKING TOTAL WITH RESPONDENT

Place the answer to Q. MM07 in the blank space in Q. MM08 and then ask the respondent whether the total is correct. When asking the question, emphasize the words “excluding you.”

If she says NO, check the box NO and then return to Q. MM01 to check with the respondent whether you have obtained the information correctly. Once you have made sure the total number of brothers and sisters is correct, draw two lines through the “NO” box in Q. MM08 (because it’s no longer true), and then mark the “YES” box and proceed with Q. MM09.

Q. MM09: FILTER FOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

Check the answer in Q. MM07. If the respondent had one or more brothers or sisters, continue with Q. MM10. If the respondent had no brothers or sisters, go to the Next Section.

Q. MM10: ORDER NUMBER

At this point, go back to Q. MM01 to ask the order number for all brothers and sisters. Record 01 as the order number for the brother/sister born first, 02 for the brother/sister born second, and so on until you have recorded the order number of all the brothers and sisters.

You will not include the respondent in the birth order.

Once you have established the order number of all brothers and sisters, go to Q. MM11.

Q. MM11: NUMBER OF PREVIOUS BIRTHS

Record how many brothers and sisters from the same mother are older than the respondent herself, that is, those born before the respondent. By comparing the

age of the respondent with that of her brothers and sisters we can verify that the order of the brothers and sisters is correct.

Q. MM13: NAME OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Record at the top of the columns the name of each brother/sister of the respondent according to the order number in Q. MM01. Do not include the respondent in a column. Indicate the respondent's place among the siblings by drawing an 'X' in Q. MM13 on the vertical line that separates the two columns between two siblings.

When the list is complete, you will ask the questions in this section for one sibling before asking about the brother or sister in the next column. Reference the brother or sister by mentioning his/her name.

If the respondent has more than 12 brothers or sisters born to the same mother, take a second Woman's Questionnaire, fill in the information on the cover page, and write CONTINUATION on the top. In this second questionnaire, re-number the column numbers in Q. MM13 to (13), (14), etc. and record the additional information about the other siblings.

Q. MM14: SEX OF BROTHER OR SISTER

Always confirm the sex of a person before recording it in Q. MM14 since there are many names that may be given to either a male or female.

Q. MM15: SURVIVAL STATUS OF BROTHER OR SISTER

If a brother or sister died (Q. MM15 is NO) go to Q. MM17. If the respondent does not know if the brother or sister is still alive, circle '8' and go to the next column (if there are other brothers and sisters).

Q. MM16: AGE OF BROTHER OR SISTER

If the brother or sister is alive, you must record his/her age at the last birthday. If the respondent doesn't know, probe until you get an estimate. A good probe is to ask how many years the brother or sister is younger or older than the respondent.

The ages of sisters who are still alive are used for calculating the years of exposure for estimating maternal mortality rates. After recording the response, go to the next column (if there are other brothers or sisters).

Q. MM17: NUMBER OF YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THE DEATH

This question and others that follow refer only to brothers and sisters who have died. Ask how many years ago the brother or sister died. If the respondent does not know, ask her the year of death and calculate to determine the number of years since the death of the brother or sister. You must at least get an estimate.

Q. MM18: AGE AT DEATH

Age at the time of death is very important information. Make a maximum effort to obtain the response. This information is more important for sisters than for

brothers because the age will determine which skip instruction you follow; whether to ask questions Q. MM19-MM22 or whether to skip to Q. MM23.

If a brother of any age or a sister younger than 12 years of age died, then go to Q. MM23. If a sister older than 12 years of age died, continue with the next question (Q. MM19).

Q. MM19-MM21: PREGNANT OR GIVING BIRTH WHEN DIED

These questions are asked only for sisters who died at the age of 12 or older. The objective of these questions is to detect cases of maternal mortality. Maternal mortality may happen during pregnancy, during delivery, or during the end of a pregnancy (abortion or still birth) or even during the two months after the end of a pregnancy.

Q. MM22: NUMBER OF DAYS WHEN DIED

Death occurring within a specified number of days after pregnancy or childbirth is important in order to detect cases of maternal mortality. For all sisters who have died within two months after the end of a pregnancy or childbirth (YES to Q. MM21), you must record number of days in Q. MM22.

Obtaining accurate data is difficult; probe and enter number of days even if it is only a best estimate. If the respondent answers in weeks, and probing does not produce an estimate in days, convert the number of weeks to days by multiplying by 7. For example, if after probing the respondent can only report that it was 3 weeks and does not know exactly how many days, you will record 3 weeks as 21 days.

Q. MM23-MM24: DEATH DUE TO VIOLENCE OR ACCIDENT

The objectives of these two questions are to distinguish maternal deaths from other causes, and to determine whether any of the deaths reported in the table, other than the maternal deaths, were due to an act of violence or accident.

It is important that you follow skip instructions carefully.

Notes for the Adult and Maternal Mortality Section:

1) The number of columns filled must be equal to the number of siblings listed in Q. MM01 and the total number of brothers and sisters recorded in Q. MM07.

2) Indicate the respondent's position in the table by marking an 'X' between the two columns of the sibling that is older and younger than the respondent (this is where the respondent falls in the order of siblings). The number of columns preceding the 'X' must be equal to the number recorded in Q. MM11.

3) If you add Q. MM17 (number of years since the death) and Q. MM18 (age at death), this gives the age the brother or sister would have been today if he/she were still alive. This calculation can be made to check that the brothers and sisters were recorded in the right order.

4) If in Q. MM18 (age at death), the respondent tells you she doesn't know, persist to obtain an estimate. It is preferable to obtain an approximate age than no age at all. However, if the brother or sister died when he/she was still very young, record '00' for age.

5) Compare the age of the brothers/sisters. Suppose a woman has a first child at the age of 15 and the last at the age of 47, which is an extreme case, the range between the age of the youngest brother or sister and the eldest brother/sister cannot exceed 47-15 = 32 years.

Cross check to see if the interval between brothers/sisters is very long (5 years and above). If there is a long interval between births, be sure that the respondent has not forgotten to mention a brother or sister.